

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sensor unit for mounting to an image reader, comprising:

a light source for illuminating an original;

a reading element for reading an image on the original;

and

a housing for supporting said light source and said reading element, said housing having a shaft or a bearing for allowing rotation of said housing, said shaft or said bearing being disposed so as to be parallel to said reading element.

2. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said housing is a rectangular parallelepipedic housing, said shaft or said bearing being provided so as not to protrude from said rectangular parallelepipedic housing. ✓

3. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said shaft or said bearing is integrally formed on said housing by molding.

4. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said housing further supports a lens for focusing an image light on said reading element.

5. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said housing has a hole used for mounting thereto a spacer for maintaining the distance between an original-holding plate of the image reader and said image sensor unit.

6. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said housing has integrally formed therewith a spacer for maintaining the distance between an original-holding plate of the image reader and said image sensor unit.

7. An image sensor unit according to Claim 1, wherein said housing has a positioning portion for determining the position of said housing in a longitudinal direction of a housing-holding member of the image reader.

8. An image reader, comprising:

an original-holding plate;

an image sensor unit including a light source for illuminating an original, a reading element for reading an image on the original, and a housing with either a shaft or a bearing for allowing rotation of said image sensor unit; and

a holding member for holding said image sensor unit, said holding member having either a bearing or a shaft for

engaging said shaft or said bearing of said image sensor unit.

9. An image reader according to Claim 8, further comprising a biasing member, disposed between said holding member and said image sensor unit, for biasing said image sensor unit towards said original-holding plate.

10. An image reader according to Claim 8, further comprising a guide for guiding said image sensor unit, held by said holding member, in a direction of movement of said image sensor unit, wherein said holding member has a sliding portion contacting said guide.